

evident that *Mithras paradoxus*, together with its congeners *M. flavidus* and *M. dubius*, should occupy a place in the family *Ciniflonidae*, immediately after the genus *Veleda*.

The foregoing discovery necessitates a modification, as subjoined, of the characteristics of the

#### Genus MITHRAS.

*Eyes* eight, unequal in size, and disposed on the sides and anterior part of the cephalothorax in two transverse, curved rows; those of the posterior row, which is much the longer, and has its convexity directed forwards, are larger than those of the anterior row, the lateral eyes, which are seated on bold conical tubercles, being rather the largest; the eyes of the anterior row, whose convexity is directed upwards, are situated above the prominent frontal margin; the two intermediate ones are placed near to each other on a minute tubercle, and the lateral ones are not very conspicuous, being the smallest and lightest-coloured of the eight; the lateral eyes of both rows are separated by a wide interval.

*Maxilla* short, straight, powerful, and greatly enlarged at the extremity.

*Lip* triangular or somewhat oval.

*Legs* robust, of variable relative length in different species, each metatarsus of the posterior pair having a calamistrum on its superior surface.

*Spinners* eight; those of the inferior pair, which are the shortest, consist of a single joint each, and are united throughout their entire length.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

*An Elementary Text-book of the Microscope; including a description of the Methods of preparing and mounting Objects, &c.* By J. W. GRIFFITH, M.D., F.L.S. 12mo. Van Voorst, London, 1864.

NOTWITHSTANDING the numerous books of various kinds which have been published as guides in the employment of the microscope, Dr. Griffith appears to us to have justly come to the conclusion that there was room for one more; and the mode of treatment which he has adopted in the little work now before us places it, in some respects at least, not only apart from, but in a superior position to most of its predecessors and competitors. It is, in fact, rather as an elementary course of microscopic research than as a 'Text-book of the Microscope' that we welcome its appearance, by far the greater portion of its pages being devoted to the description of the most characteristic objects for microscopic examination derived from the animal and vegetable kingdoms. By a judicious arrangement of

his materials, and a careful selection of examples, Dr. Griffith has rendered his work at once a manual of vegetable and animal anatomy and physiology and a guide to the general classification of organized bodies; and there is no doubt that the student who will take it as a guide, and, in accordance with the author's evident intention, work carefully through the series of easily obtained examples of animal and vegetable structures described in it, will find himself, at the end of his course of study, already in possession of a very considerable amount of information, and quite prepared to follow out any particular line of investigation upon his own account. It is, indeed, manifestly with a view to the latter point that Dr. Griffith has prepared this Text-book, and in this he seems to us to have been eminently successful: we are acquainted with no work so well adapted to set the reader in the way of independent microscopic research. The amount of valuable information compressed into the pages of this little volume is perfectly astonishing, as is also the quantity of beautiful and characteristic coloured figures which the author has succeeded in bringing together in the twelve plates with which the work is illustrated.

To the practical consideration of the microscope itself Dr. Griffith does not devote much space, and he altogether avoids the discussion of the comparative merits of different makers and of different modes of construction, confining himself to a brief description of the essential structure of the instrument and of the uses of its different parts. In his concluding chapter, however, he enters upon the consideration of the scientific principles involved in the construction of the microscope, including the phenomena of refraction and reflexion, the nature and effects of lenses, achromatism, and polarization of light; and we have seldom, if ever, seen these somewhat difficult matters so simply and perspicuously treated.

With regard to the preparation and mounting of microscopic objects, special details are scattered throughout the work, indicating the particular treatment best adapted for the successful preservation of certain groups of objects—the general plans to be adopted in any case being very shortly and simply described in the second chapter. Small as is the space devoted to this important subject, the methods recommended (which indeed are those most commonly in use among microscopists) are thoroughly well described; and perhaps it is better for the beginner to have one good set of methods laid before him, than to be left to select those which may hit his fancy from a collection of all the processes adopted by various microscopists.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Dredgings in the Freshwater Lakes of Norway.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—I believe the following extract from Mr. G. O. Sars's account (given in the 'Nyt Magazin,' Christiania, for 1862) of his dredgings in some of the freshwater lakes of Norway has not ap-